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References: WSS-370, para 4; WSSW 715

Source, Operational Data, and Comments:

The operational information contained in the following report is claimed to be of a current nature and has been provided by the source indicated in cooperation with his Baltic colleagues here.

The information of the type furnished herewith had been requested prior to the receipt of your WSSW 715. While this report is not of a detailed, comprehensive nature, we feel it may contain some information of interest. Efforts are continuing along the lines recommended by you in order to obtain all data of this nature available here.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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Travel and Border Control  
inside the Baltic States

WSS-450

Current

Stockholm

8 July 1949

C-3

14 July 1949

Reliable Lithuanian Source

1. All travel inside Lithuania up to a distance of 200 kilometers is legally considered to be free from control and restrictions. It is however, considered very helpful and worthwhile to be in possession of a travel certificate even for the short distances, if for no other reason than that it provides priority for the purchase of tickets and accommodations. ( From an operational standpoint it is recommended in all cases. For example, if one became involved in a circumstance creating slight suspicion, the possession of a travel certificate might suffice to forestall any otherwise routine investigation which would normally occur in such a case.)
2. Ordinary travel certificates are issued by the office or firm for whom the travel is being performed. Practically every person traveling has in his possession such a certificate, whether it is absolutely required or not. All military and public officials always are supplied with such travel certificates.
3. No special travel permits are required except for entrance into the so-called forbidden zones along the Lithuanian-Polish border and along the seacoast. These permits are issued by the local MVD office and are presented for control at the time of entrance and departure from such a zone. It is understood a very valid reason must exist before permission is granted to enter any security zone.
4. According to the most recent information available here, no formal frontier exists between Lithuania and the former East Prussia. No special formalities or travel permits, etc, are known to be in force here. This is also believed to be the case between Estonia-Latvia and Lithuania and the Bielorrussian area.
5. It has been more reliably determined that no special permits are required by Lithuanians for purposes of travel to Latvia.

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A formal border between the two countries no longer exists and many Lithuanians are understood to make frequent trips to Latvia.

6. It is possible to travel to Bielorussia and to the Russian interior by procuring a regular travel certificate from the local MVD officer or the local Executive Committee. Such certificates are not difficult to obtain and it is reported at this time that some individuals have received such permits for travel to Siberia in order to visit deported relatives or family members. (The latter statement concerning travel to Siberia for the purpose of visiting deportees has never before come to our attention either as rumor or comment. As will be recalled in previous dispatches, instances have been mentioned where single communications or contacts have been made via the "grapevine" to persons in Siberia, but otherwise no such communications are known to exist.)
7. The Lithuanian-Polish frontier is described as having been extremely well determined with the placing of two sets of barbed wire entanglements, two meters in height and approximately 100-500 meters apart depending upon the terrain. Between the entanglements the area has been entirely cleared and for the most part plowed and harrowed in order to facilitate patrolling and spot checking for any crossing attempts. A hidden trip wire is also reported to be placed between the barbed wire area--contact with which would alert the guard patrol of the area. The next zone is an uninhabited area varying from three to five kilometers in depth. The next border zone is approximately 25 kilometers in depth and is in the so-called forbidden zone. Here only persons earning their livelihood in the area are allowed to reside and then only by special permission of the MVD. A special permit is required by all residents of the area. These permits are controlled upon each arrival and departure at the area and one is at all times while in the area subject to this control. Even after special permits have been granted the inhabitants of the area continue to be closely watched by the authorities. Actual patrol is done by army personnel with considerable use being made of trained dogs. At intervals along the frontier communication and guard posts have been established. At this time it is considered practically impossible to enter or depart Lithuania via this particular area. Any attempt at such a border crossing at this time is discouraged by source and individuals acquainted with the area. (It will be noted in our reference WSS 370, para. 4, that the description of the Lithuanian-Polish frontier is practically identical with that provided by Cracker concerning the eastern Polish border, which may, in fact, refer to the same area.)

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